

In most cases, Delaware State Fire Prevention Regulations will require multi-purpose extinguishers. These extinguishers will be effective on all types of fires, including those involving live electrical equipment. These units are commonly referred to as “ABC” extinguishers, as they are effective on fires involving trash, paper, wood, etc (Class A materials), flammable and combustible liquids (Class B fuels) and energized electrical equipment (Class C).

The number and size of extinguishers required is dependent upon the hazard (amount of combustible materials) of the occupancy. Low hazard occupancies include offices, schools, churches, hotels, motels and similar structures. Ordinary hazard occupancies include restaurants, retail stores, light manufacturing, auto showrooms and workshops. High hazard occupancies include such operations as warehousing, woodworking, vehicle repair, aircraft and boat servicing, etc.

The following table will help you determine what size and how many extinguishers you will need. A “unit of A” equals 1, so if you wish to protect a low hazard occupancy covering 12,000 square feet, you will need 1 unit for each 3,000 square feet, or 4 “units.” This coverage could theoretically be provided by two units each having a 2-A: 10-B: C rating (note the limitation of 11,250

square feet per extinguisher). HOWEVER; the determining factor will most likely be the maximum travel distance limit of 75 feet. This distance is the actual walking distance (around tables and down aisles or corridors) from any point in the area protected to the nearest extinguisher.

Criteria	Low Hazard Occ.	Ord. Hazard Occ.	High Hazard Occ.
Minimum rating	2-A	2-A	4-A
Max area per unit of A	3,000 ft <sup>2</sup>	1,500 ft <sup>2</sup>	1,000 ft <sup>2</sup>
Max area ea. Ext.	11,250 ft <sup>2</sup>	11,250 ft <sup>2</sup>	11,250 ft <sup>2</sup>
Max travel distance	75 ft.	75 ft.	75 ft.

## MOUNTING LOCATIONS

It is generally a good practice to mount fire extinguishers near exit doors as a start point. That way, a person wishing to fight a fire will always be between the fire and a way out of the building, should the extinguishing effort fail. Another good location is at corridor or aisle intersections, so that the extinguisher will be visible from any direction.

## MOUNTING HEIGHT

Fire extinguishers having a gross weight not exceeding 40 pounds shall be installed so that the top of the unit is not more than 5 feet above the floor. Fire extinguishers having a gross weight greater than 40 pounds shall be installed so that the top of the unit is not more than 3 ½ feet above the floor. In no case shall the bottom of the extinguisher be less than 4 inches above the floor.

For guidance on providing adequate coverage for other hazards, refer to National Fire Protection Association Standard Number 10, The Standard for Portable Fire Extinguishers.

**Chief – Technical Services**

John P. Rossiter, CFI, CFPS  
302-739-4394

**New Castle County**

Office of State Fire Marshal  
2307 MacArthur Road  
Newark, DE 19720-2426  
Phone: (302) 323-5365  
Fax: (302) 323-5366

**Assistant Chief – Technical Services**

John W. Rudd, CFI

**Specialists**

Michael R. Moran, CFI, CFPS  
Tony V. Eoppolo, CFI, CFPS  
James G. Facciolo, CFI  
Renee M. Hayes  
John A. Reedy

**Kent County**

Office of State Fire Marshal  
Delaware State Fire Service Center  
1537 Chestnut Grove Road  
Dover, DE 19904-1544  
Phone: (302) 739-4394  
Fax: (302) 739-3696

**Specialist**

Gary R. Long, EFO, BPS, MSA

**Sussex County**

Office of State Fire Marshal  
Industrial Park Boulevard  
22705 Park Avenue  
Georgetown, DE 19947-6303  
Phone: (302) 856-5298  
Fax: (302) 856-5800

**Assistant Chief – Technical Services**

Duane T. Fox, Jr., CFI, CFPS

**Specialists**

Dennett E. Pridgeon, CFI, CFPS  
Thomas J. Haslam, CFI  
Steven L. Callaway, CFI  
Timothy J. McClanahan

J. Robert Wyatt, CFI, Quality Assurance Program

**Jurisdictional City Fire Marshals**

If your project is located within the limits of one of the four Jurisdictional Fire Marshals, contact that office for their required plan submittals, appointment procedures, and fee schedules.

**City of Dover**

City Fire Marshal's Office  
P.O. Box 475  
Dover, DE 19903  
Phone: (302) 736-7010  
City Fire Marshal  
David Truax

**City of Newark**

Newark Fire Marshal's Office  
P.O. Box 390  
Newark, DE 19715-0390  
Phone: (302) 366-7075  
City Fire Marshal  
Matthew Schumacher

**City of New Castle**

New Castle Fire Marshal's Office  
900 Wilmington Road  
New Castle, DE 19720  
Phone: (302) 322-9813  
City Fire Marshal  
Jeff Bergstrom

**City of Wilmington**

Wilmington Fire Marshal's Office  
Louis L. Redding-City/County Building  
800 North French Street  
Third Floor  
Wilmington, DE 19801  
Phone: (302) 576-3120  
City Fire Marshal  
George Cunningham, Deputy Fire Chief

**FIRE EXTINGUISHER  
SIZE AND PLACEMENT  
FOR CLASS A FIRES**